AMAZING - WIN A PLACE ON ROBOT WARS!

ROBOT WARS

ROBOT WARS MAGAZINE

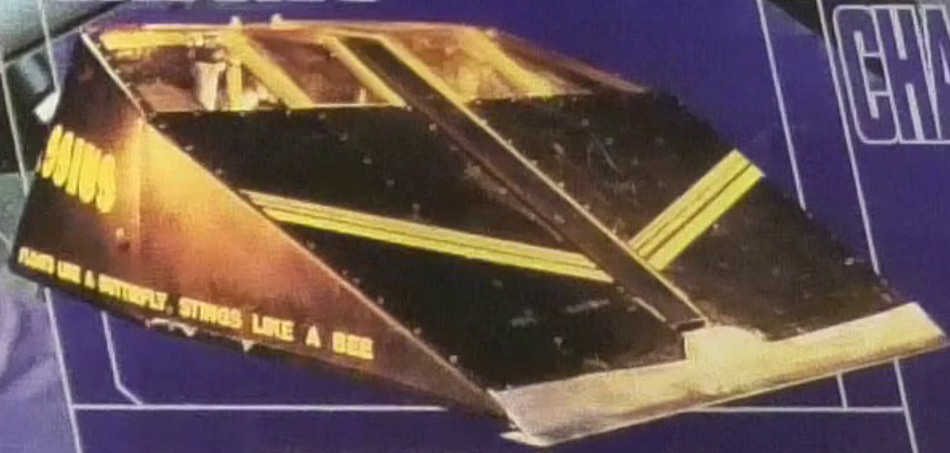
DEAD METAL
the cutting edge

TOTAL CHAOS!
the champs reveal all

ISSUE 3 / JUNE / £1-50

ANDROID ALERT!

RW movie mayhem

CASSIUS


the SRIMECH has landed

CRAIG CHARLES

exclusive interview

ROBOT WARS

ISSUE 03 / JUNE 2000

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BBC

mbc mentorn barraclough carey

the latest news from the pits...

RW EXCLUSIVE!

TOY STORY

These exclusive pictures show expert technicians at work on Robot Wars miniatures in an underground bunker at a secret location simply referred to as 'Lockup 15'. For months now they have been perfecting techniques to re-create the robot toys in a detailed scale format. As well as all the house robots, you can see from these covert snaps that contestant robots including Hypno-Disc are being reconstructed with precision tooling and accuracy.

"These miniaturised prototypes should be consumer compatible within 6 months," our high-level source revealed, which roughly translates as "They'll be in the shops in time for Christmas."

...and from around the world...

COLA STROLLER

Japanese boffins at Waseda University are developing all sorts of robots to perform human tasks, like playing the piano and lifting heavy objects. That might cause Elton John and his stage crew a few sleepless nights – though by the look of it, the lifter robot (left) looks happier strolling around slurping his cola.

ROBOT RAMPAGE

Robots are appearing all over the place at the moment. The latest ones we've seen are in the PlayStation game The Misadventures Of Tron Bonne. The game is great fun, with you controlling a load of robots you have to train to complete special tasks. Shame there are some humans in it as well, though! See page 11 for a chance to win a copy.

robot report

SIR SINGALOT?

You've watched the show, you've read the magazine and soon you'll be able to hear the music. Yes, Sir Killalot has finally signed a record deal and will be releasing a single and album this autumn to tie-in with the start of Series IV. We'll be bringing you a special report in a future issue, but meanwhile we're just dreaming of seeing him on Top Of The Pops pushing Britney Spears and Craig David into the pit of oblivion.

BUILD A BOT

Ever wondered how to build a bot? In the video Rex And The Robots, roboteer Rex Garrod takes you through the creation of the famous Cassius (see page 20). You also get to see Series III champ George Francis rummaging in a scrapyard for spare parts! The tape is available for £11.49 from Rex's website at **www.specialeffects.freeserve.co.uk** or you can ring Alpha Films on 01473 328 283. Remember to mention RWM if you do ring to get the best deal!

NIPPING HECK

As talks get underway to decide on the upgrades for the house robots in Series IV, RWM managed to get a sneaky peek at the proposals for Sgt Bash on a blueprint drawn by the house robot boss himself, Chris Reynolds. If these killer jaws find their way onto Bash, competitors are advised to avoid his CPZ. Watch this space for more weapons-upgrade news.

R2'S BEEN FRAMED

Ever wanted to see R2-D2 and C-3PO in the flesh, er, metal? An exhibition at the Barbican Centre in London has both the droids on display, and shows how the famous bots were dreamed up. The Art of Star Wars runs until the end of September, so there's plenty of time to get down there.

WILD THING

Not to be confused with the RW competitor of the same name, Thing is a clever idea from the University of Massachusetts that might appeal to the next generation of roboteers. One way up, it's a walking robot, the other way up, it's a working hand. That means it could walk over to Matilda, flip over and pinch her on the bum!

FEELING LUCKY?

If you could have one wish, what would it be? A million pounds? Nah. A chance to play soccer for England? No way. A place on Robot Wars? Yes, yes and yes again! And that's exactly what we're giving away to one so-lucky-it's-crazy reader on page 11. If you haven't got the money, time or expertise to build your own robot, it's the only way you'll ever get a chance to experience the thrill of being a 100% genuine roboteer! Not only that, but it's the chance to meet everyone involved with the show, see the house robots up close, and let all your mates see you on TV.

If that's not enough excitement for one issue, there's a behind the scenes look at a RW mini-movie, all you need to know about Dead Metal, Craig, Chaos 2, Killalot... so flip the page and get activated!

THE EDITORS

FANTASY FIGHT

robocat v robodog

SID THE CAT

STRENGTHS
Has nine cyber-lives

WEAKNESSES
Exposed bodywork makes it im-purr-fect

TACTIC
Make soothing purring noises then sink claws into Aibo

woof!

miaooow!

AIBO THE DOG

STRENGTHS
Able to bury bones three miles underground

WEAKNESSES
Easily distracted by a flying stick, a frisbee or a bowlful of nails

TACTIC
Cock leg and wee on Sid's circuits

RESULT
Aibo chases Sid up a tree. Sid waits there until Aibo runs his batteries down from barking at him. Sid wins!

SAFETY WARNING!

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BUILD OR OPERATE A ROBOT WITHOUT FIRST JOINING THE RW CLUB AND GETTING THEIR SAFETY GUIDELINES. SEE PAGE 12 FOR DETAILS OF HOW TO JOIN!

THE ORIGIN OF SIR KILLALOT PART ONE

HAVING SNATCHED *DEAD METAL* FROM THE 160TH CENTURY, AND RESCUED *MATILDA* FROM THE LOST CITY OF ATLANTIS, *TARPA** SCIENTISTS ARE HARD AT WORK STUDYING THEIR DEADLY BOUNTY.

*TECHNICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY

THEIR RESEARCH IS SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED.

CRASH!

REACTIVATE THE TIME MACHINE, TROOPS!

ER... WE DON'T KNOW HOW, SIR.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW. *MATILDA* HAS A MOTION SENSOR, IF YOU STAND STILL...

SWITCH IT ON!

HELLO, LAB RATS. FOUND A WAY TO GET OIL STAINS OUT OF YOUR WHITE COATS YET?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING MCCARTHY?

I'M SENDING A MARINE SQUAD BACK TO ATLANTIS TO RETRIEVE MORE OF THOSE *"MATILDA"* ROBOTS. THEN MY ARMY WILL BE LIGHT YEARS AHEAD OF THE REST OF THE WORLD!

THAT'S AN *ORDER!*

GO! GO! GO!

GENERAL MCCARTHY, THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA! YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE WITHOUT A WARRANT!

...FOR YOU THAT I GOT ONE!

ORDER

OH NO. WHAT A SHAME.

IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT, GENERAL. WHEN YOU STEP INTO A PARALLEL UNIVERSE, YOU HAVE TO IMAGINE THAT TIME IS NOT LINEAR BUT...

SHUT UP! I DON'T NEED TO KNOW HOW THE MICROWAVE WORKS TO HEAT UP MY LUNCH. NOW, BE GOOD AND SWITCH IT ON BEFORE I GET ANGRY.

COME ON, MR SPOCK. YOU'RE COMING TOO.

HEY!

Illustration: John Ross. Colour: Alan Craddock. Script: Bevey Moore.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

GEORGE FRANCIS
[TEAM CAPTAIN]

RICHARD SWANN

Chaos 2 CHAMPIONS!

IAN SWANN

series III grand champ george francis on flipping, fighting, fame and frostbite!

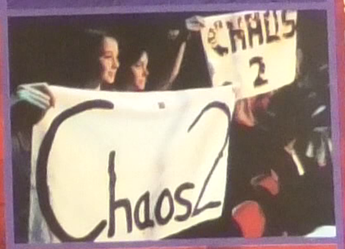
>How did you come up with the design for Chaos 2?
GF I first started by helping Rex Garrod build Recyclopse for Series I and decided to have a go myself. The design of Chaos 2 is based on lessons learnt from building Chaos 1. It took about 6 months of my spare time.

>How did you name the robot?
GF It's named after the principle the workshop works under!

>What sort of testing did it have?
GF Most testing is done on our drive, but most importantly we take it to some of the charity events to get in some actual combat experience against other robots. Only then will you know how good your design is, and whether you need to make any changes.

>Is your weapon as dangerous as it looks?
GF One of the dangers is the speed and power of the forces involved. Things move very violently when it's working at 750 pounds per square inch. If you were leaning over the flipper when it fired, it would do you a VERY serious injury. Another thing to watch out for is the danger of frostbite!

>Frostbite?
GF The expanding gas from the canister gets very cold very quickly, and cylinders, valves and pipework can soon become dangerously cold to touch.



>How long does the weapon last?
GF We can get at least 15 flips out of it.

"We get recognised in McDONALD'S now!"

>What sort of reaction do you get in the pits from the other roboteers?
GF The atmosphere is great, we all help each other out. The other roboteers couldn't believe we made Chaos 2 for so little money. It's all built from scrap.

>When you go into the arena, do you have your tactics worked out in advance?
GF Apart from "Hit 'em and flip 'em," we just wait and see what happens. Anything can happen in Robot Wars, and you don't know who you're going to be drawn against. But we did know we had a good robot.

"HIT 'em and FLIP 'em!"

>Which other robots did you particularly admire during Series III?
GF Razer, Big Cheese, Firestorm and Hypno-Disc were the robots that we most admired. Many other teams had tremendous characters, especially the Irish Diotoir team.

SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH	89cm
WIDTH	71cm
HEIGHT	38cm
WEIGHT	79.5kg
SPEED	32km/h
WEAPON	HIGH PRESSURE CO2 FLIPPER WITH 450kg LIFTING FORCE
BATTERIES	2x 12v 30ah A500 DRYFIT
MOTORS	2x BOSCH 400w

PREVIOUS ROBOTS

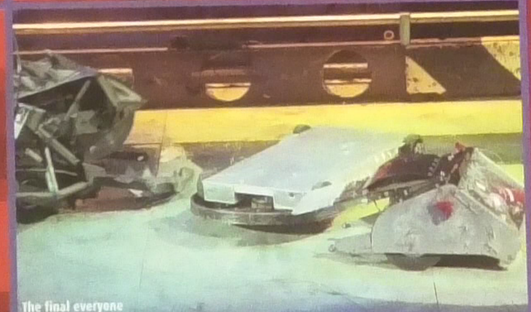
SERIES I	ROBOT THE BRUCE
SERIES II	CHAOS

>If you could have a grudge match against any of the other robots at all, who would it be with?
GF Razer, as they're the only team ever to have beaten us!

>What's planned for the team in the future, now you've finally won?
GF I'll be re-entering Chaos 2 in Series IV – perhaps with some new surprises. It won't be called 'Chaos 3' though.

>What advice would you give to future roboteers?
GF Look at the current robots to pick up tips. Choose your design very carefully, using all their best features.

>So, has winning Robot Wars changed your life in any way?
GF If you win, it's a bonus, but it's not the be-all and end-all. Hopefully RW will raise the profile of engineering and make it exciting. After all, we get recognised in places like McDonald's now!



The final everyone wanted to watch – Chaos 2 v Hypno-Disc

CHAOS THEORY
what the fans think about chaos 2

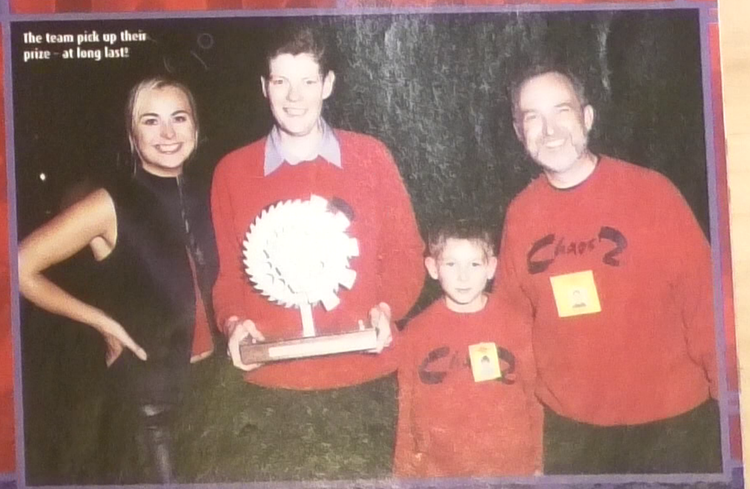
Hitman This robot is the best in the world. It can take on anyone. It destroys anything in its path!

Bertie Stephens I went "Wow!" when they flipped the robot over and over without it replying.

Dawn What an excellent robot, you wouldn't think a robot of that size would be able to have that kind of power. Congratulations on your well-deserved win.

James Richman Chaos 2 is an amazing robot, the flipper is sooooo powerful, nothing can beat it!

Aneirin Chaos 2's flipper has got to be the best around.



The team pick up their prize – at long last!

You can visit the Chaos 2 website at www.gt-electronics.freeserve.co.uk

Thanks to Radio Times, Chris Middleton and George Francis

looks like a lobster, stings like a scorpion – dead metal is one robot you don't want to mess with

DEATH TREAT

SPECIFICATIONS

NAME DEAD METAL
SPEED 13KM/H
WEIGHT 112KG
LENGTH 160CM
WIDTH 100CM
HEIGHT 70CM
WEAPONRY PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN PINCERS AND ADJUSTABLE CIRCULAR SAW REVVING AT 4000 RPM
METHOD OF ATTACK APPROACH WITH PINCERS OPENED WIDE, CLAMP CONTESTANT ROBOT AND SLICE WITH SAW

ORIGIN
Believe it or not, there was once a plan to paint Dead Metal pink to match its lobster-like appearance! Luckily they left it a much more menacing rusty grey

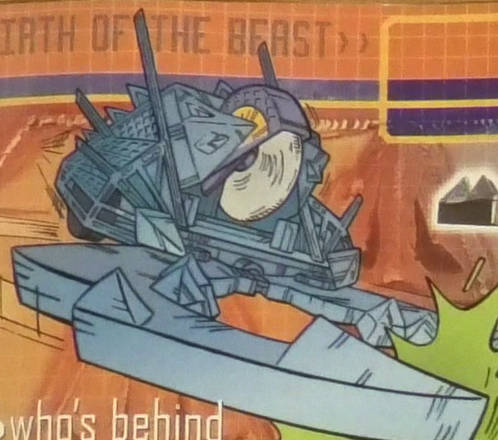
BLADE
Upgraded from an ineffective petrol strimmer engine in Series I to a battery-operated blade in Series II which looked great but did little damage. Now uses a kingsized hand operated petrol saw, with a 36cm steel friction cutter that can saw through steel girders

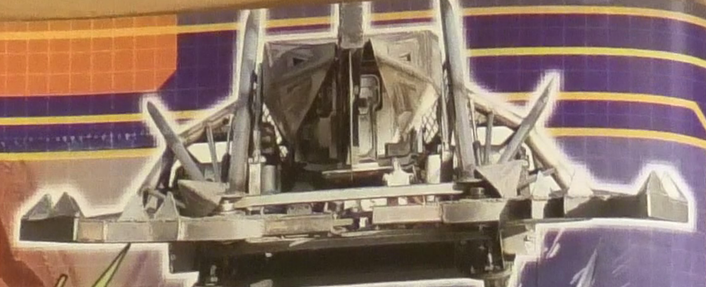
SPIKES
To prevent any sneaky contestant robots attacking from behind

PINCERS
Powerful bot-crushing device used in Series II. Since replaced by quicker-closing, more reliable hydraulic mechanism. Small metal spikes and metal stalagmites were added in Series II to give the pincers more grip and prevent surface damage

PANELLING
Extra protective mesh to be added for Series IV to avoid damage to drive gear sustained during Series III

UPGRADES
Apart from adjusting the pincer bearings and tightening the wiring, Dead Metal won't undergo radical changes for Series IV – it is probably the house robot that has had the most spent on it already





>who's behind DEAD METAL?

JOHN BOUNDY, OPERATOR ● ANDY LAZELL, WEAPONS

"It's a load of JUNK"

>Where did the name come from?
>It's meant to look like a load of junk metal from a scrapyard. We were going to have bits of old exhaust pipe sticking out of it. The good thing is, the more rusty it looks, the better.

>Some people say it looks a bit like a steel crab.
>It's supposed to look like a lobster, although it's also like a scorpion, with pincers and a wicked sting once it gets hold of its prey!

>Ever had any problems with it?
> The first two years the saw didn't work! It cost a lot to get it going.

>Why did you change the way the saw moved?
>Originally an arm swung the saw over and onto the robot caught in the pincers. Now the saw is mounted on a CO2-powered steel cradle that rises up and down, giving a better angle for the saw to cut at.

>If a bot gets free from Dead Metal's grip, have you let it go?
>More often than not. Once you've got something caught in those jaws it can't get out. Sometimes you let go to get a different grip and chomp another part of it, and that's when they might escape.

>What makes Dead Metal so special?
>It's one of the best-designed house robots. You can grab things and knock and push them around with the jaws, and you've always got another weapon to bring down once you've got them. It could make the weight limit and be a competitor robot, and win!

>Could Chaos 2 flip Dead Metal?
>It's quite hard to flip, especially if the jaws are open. Chaos 2 flipped three of the other house robots but not this one.

>Which house bot has the best weapon?
>This one, of course – there's nothing more exciting than seeing those sparks fly when the saw cuts right through a robot's insides!

> DEAD METAL MOMENTS

> In the Series III semi-finals, during the all-important clash between **101** and **Hypno-Disc**, DM got Hypno in its jaws and began to saw in it before the spinning sensation got free. Luck for Hypno that DM failed to make much of an impression. The outcome of the fight came down to a judges' decision inspecting damage to bot bodywork, and Hypno won.

> Again in Series III, towards the end a rather unspectacular bout between **Griffon** and **Daisy Chopper**, the low oblong box Griffon tried to lift Matilda with its arm, infuriating DM, who decided to get it in his grip and started sawing the arm in half until 'Cease' was called.

> In an early heat of the First World Championship, **Razer** was making a pepper pot of **All Torque**. Matilda and DM moved in to help, and Jonathan Pearce said "All Torque – you are dead metal," as the saw came down.

DON'T PANIC!

are you ready for the best competition EVER?

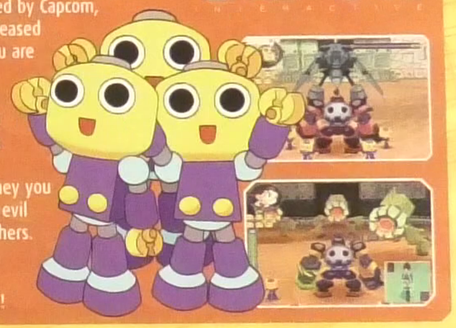
RWM has joined forces with the **PANIC ATTACK** team from Wales and **EIDOS INTERACTIVE** to give you an amazing chance to be in the next series of Robot Wars AND win a PlayStation with a great new game. Yes, you heard us properly – you could be a roboteer! Imagine arriving in the pits, meeting the other roboteers and being interviewed for TV. All you have to do is look at the question below and send us the answer on a postcard with your name, address and a daytime contact number, or call our special competition hotline on 0901 111 0703*. If you're lucky enough to be chosen, this is what you'll be able to enjoy:

- A PLACE IN THE PANIC ATTACK TEAM FOR SERIES IV OF ROBOT WARS
- TRAVEL EXPENSES TO AND FROM THE FILMING
- ACCOMODATION AT AN OFFICIAL ROBOTEERS' HOTEL
- A PLAYSTATION AND COPY OF TRON BONNE
- 10 RUNNERS-UP WILL WIN COPIES OF THE TRON BONNE GAME

THE MISADVENTURES OF TRON BONNE

EIDOS INTERACTIVE

This new PlayStation game, developed by Capcom, was a massive hit in Japan and is released here on June 16th, priced £39.99. You are mechanical genius Tron Bonne and have to complete missions with the help of your 'Servbots'. There are 40 mini-droids to choose from and each has special skills for you to train. Completing a mission raises the money you need for a final showdown with the evil Loath, who has kidnapped your brothers. But will you have the right Servbots around to finish the job? Only by playing Tron Bonne can you find out!



Where do the Panic Attack team come from?

a) Scotland
b) Northern Ireland
c) Wales

Send your answer on a postcard by 30 June 2000 to:

**PANIC ATTACK!
RWM COMPETITIONS,
PO BOX 114, LEATHERHEAD,
SURREY KT22 9DG**

Or call our competition hotline on

0901 111 0703

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Robot Wars Magazine Competitions, PO Box 114, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 9DG. RWM competitions are open to residents of the UK, Eire and the Channel Islands, except employees of the BBC, RWM printers, Robot Wars programme makers and anyone else connected with the competitions and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing date. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost or damaged in the post. Prizes are subject to availability. If in circumstances beyond our control, the prize offered is unavailable, an alternative and equivalent prize will be sought. All entrants are bound by the rules. RWM will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and addresses will be available on request. *Calls should cost no more than 25p. Please get permission from the bill payer before ringing.

ROBOT WARS CLUB

LONDON W1P OLD TEL 0207 323

CLUB NEWS

Congratulations from the Club to the team who make Robot Wars for TV. They have been nominated for a BAFTA award in the 'Best Light Entertainment Programme' category. By next month, we should know whether they have won or not. Fingers crossed!

TOTAL CHAOS LEADER TABLE

Here's our final roundup of computer game masters. Well done to Dan Goodinson for topping the table!

NAME	TIME
Daniel Goodinson	2:30
Patrick Dunlea	3:01
Chris Robertson	3:02
Jessica Cain	3:02
Nick Anger	3:04
Peter Virash	3:05
Iain MacKenzie	3:05
Philip Chandler	3:06
Michael Arnold	3:06
Monica Sheen	3:06
James Cox	3:08
Thomas Gregory	3:08
Robert Frost	3:09
Kieron Ruddy	3:09

LUCKY NUMBERS

If one of the member numbers below is yours, contact the club on **0207 323 9435** to claim a free RW goody bag!

003337	015032	006869	018110	028099
025111	003352	017481	028112	011580
012369	026258	026784	010337	002744
028617	000229	009045	018216	000943

CAPTION COMPETITION

Who's saying what in this in this picture? Scribble something funny down and send it to the Club address below. The funniest one wins a baseball cap and record bag.

JOIN US!

Become a member of the official Robot Wars Club. For £12.95 per year you'll get:

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- MEMBERSHIP CARD
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Fill out the form below and send it to the club address on the right:

For club enquiries, please do not contact Robot Wars Magazine. Speak directly to:

ROBOT WARS CLUB, LONDON W1P OLD

0207 323 9435

I want to join the Robot wars Club ☐ I am interested in building a robot ☐
I enclose a cheque/postal order for £12.95 made payable to Robot Wars.
Or pay by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) Please indicate your chosen method of payment: Cheque/Postal Order ☐ Credit Card ☐

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms and initials) .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Daytime phone number .....

Card number .....

Valid from ..... Expiry date .....

Signature ..... Date .....

a of z CONTESTANT ROBOTS

g is for GRIM REAPER

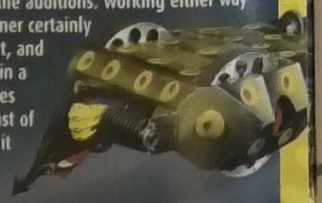
Ghoulish, ghastly, gory – and that's just the roboteers! This fearsome creation looked like the Munsters' car, and struck terror into the hearts of the other contestants... until it was knocked out in its first heat! Undeterred, the fine looking Reaper will return, with an even more cruel companion bot to drag opponents straight down to hell!

h is for HYPNO-DISC

It was the weapon everyone wanted after its appearance in Series III. Even commentator Jonathan Pearce was left gobsmacked when h saw the whirling wonder in action. It's rumou one of the house robots might be kitted out with a Hypno-style disc for Series IV. Can't tel you which one, but suffice to say, she'll be double-dangerous if it goes ahead.

i is for INVERTABRAT

Team Brat Worst, who crash test Formula 1 cars for a living, knocked Invertabrat together just four weeks before the auditions. Working either way up, the first-timer certainly looked the part, and managed to win a couple of battles before the Beast of Bodmin made it bite the dust.



BBC

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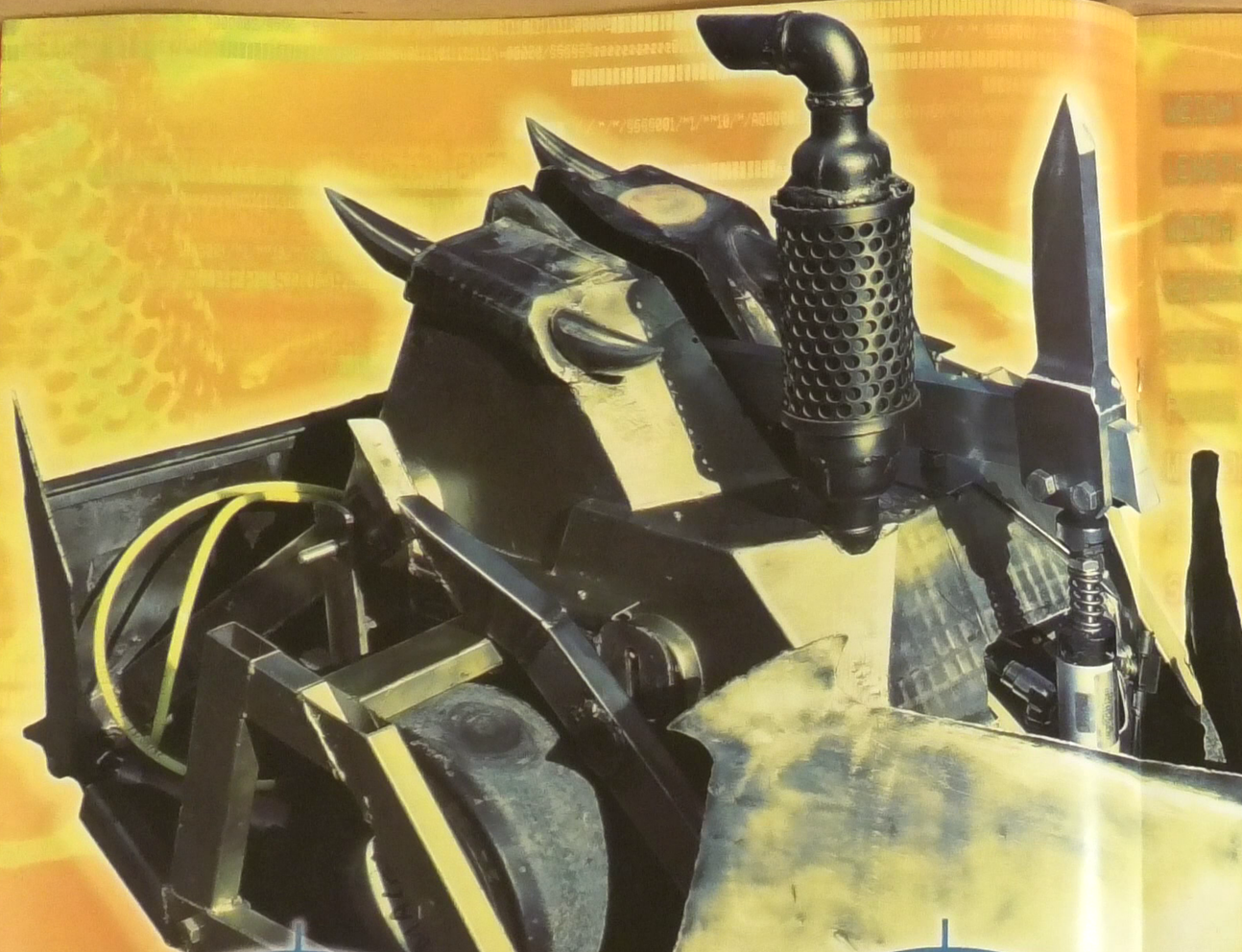
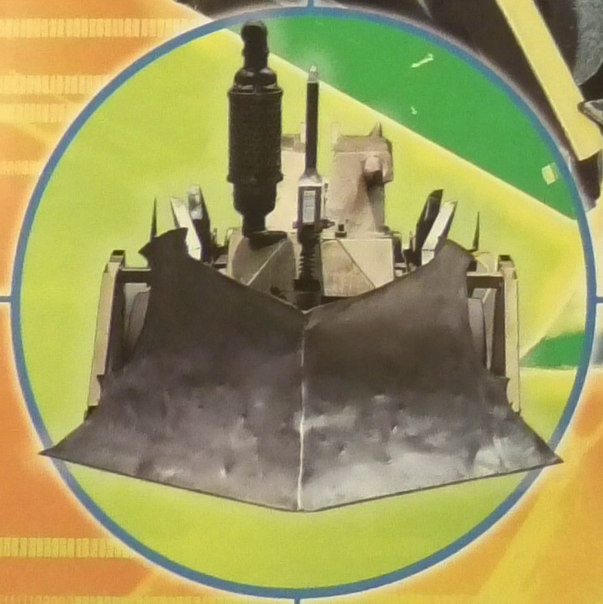
ROBOT WARS

SHUNT





oh we do like to be beside the seaside – when it's full of bots on their hols!

BEACH BOTS!

The familiar sights of the British seaside – sticks of rock, seagulls swooping on bags of chips, men wearing hankies on their heads asleep in deckchairs and, er, robots on the beach?

A group of contestant robots were invited down to Brighton to take part in Modelworld 2000 at the Brighton Centre after Series III finished, and took the town by storm. Among the model planes, trains and automobiles, the robots had a small hall to themselves, which played host to tug-o-war, football and battles.

The bots soon became the star attractions, with over 400 people crammed in to catch the action, and the sound of cheers echoing through the rest of the empty exhibition centre. Parents who tried to drag their kids to see the other displays in the main hall were told, "I don't want to see the trains, I want to stay see the robots!"

During the weekend, Mortis broke down, Eric was keen to avoid contact with any other robots and SMIDSY refused to run. Some of the robots were spotted sunning themselves on the beach and hitting the amusement arcades, while the roboteers found time to send some postcards home...

S.M.I.D.S.Y.

After Series III we've replaced the aluminium panels with titanium, the speed controllers are in a titanium box and basically, we're invincible! Just need to work out how to get it started!

from Mike Reed

MORTIS

To the rest of the Mortis team,

Wish you lot were here. Mortis broke down again and there was no-one to help me fix it!!!

Love from Arfur,

Mortis, Team Capt.

xxx

BIG BROTHER

It's not fair - we come all the way to the beach and all I wanted to do was eat candyfloss and play on the fruit machines but my son Jo made me take part in the modelworld show instead!

From Ian Watts, Driver

T2

T2 went a bit out of control and nearly took a radiator off the wall with its axe! I told the organisers to "chill out" and they said, 'we'll have to now you've wrecked the heating!' Whoops!!

Rupert Weeks

SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

Today I posed for pics in a 'Kiss Me Quick' hat. The photographer said I might be "the next Dale Winton!" But my teammates said I looked a right berk. We've been invited back next year – I'll definitely come (and leave the Jeffrey brothers at home).

From Charles Binns, Team Captain

GRIM REAPER

Postcard

We were-wolf told, Modelworld 2000 would zom-bie a scream. We've got a bone to pick-axe with the other roboteers who drove their machines very skull-fully and were dead good. In the football contest we nearly scored a ghoul

Simon, Gary & Luke Smith

ERIC

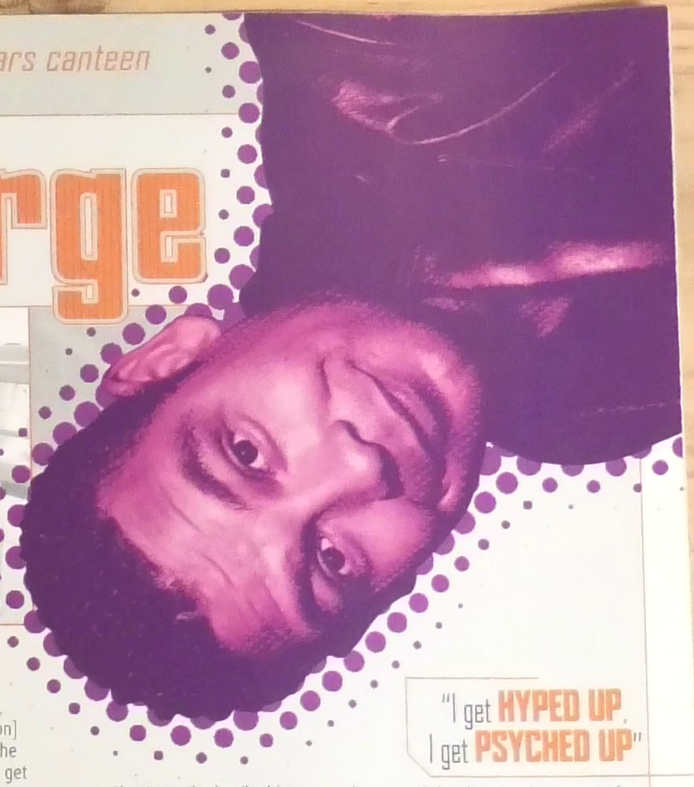
POSTCARD

We were asked to go in the arena with the other robots. Didn't get too close in case the paintwork got scratched. Took our robot down to the beach, careful not to scratch paintwork on the horrid pebbles. Hope it doesn't rain, in case our paintwork gets damaged!

Mike

mike collier books a table for two at a top nosh spot – the robot wars canteen

charles in charge



Who is the 'star' of Robot Wars? It depends who you ask. Ask the hyped-up kids queuing outside Elstree studios and they'll scream 'Sir Killalot!' as they wave their 'Pit! Pit!' banners. Ask the roboteers fiddling with their machines in the pits and they'll whisper 'Philippa' with a hopeful glance over their shoulders. Ask the programme makers scuttling around with clipboards and they'll tell you that the roboteers themselves are the real stars of the show.

STAR IN THEIR EYES

But there's another candidate and at the moment he's sitting in the famous RW canteen. Dressed in the black leather coat and trousers he uses to present Robot Wars, Craig Charles looks every inch the star. Well, nearly. The only thing that spoils it is the fact that he's giggling like a naughty schoolboy and trying not to spit out a mouthful of cheese sandwich.

It all started when I asked if he ever got collared in the street by RW fans.

"Yeah, all the time. One of the most-asked questions is by spotty kids rubbing their hands together in a bit of a scary way and saying 'Oooo, what's it like to work with Philippa?'"

I rubbed my hands together and asked him what it was like to work with Philippa. That's when the cheese sarnie tried to escape from his gob.

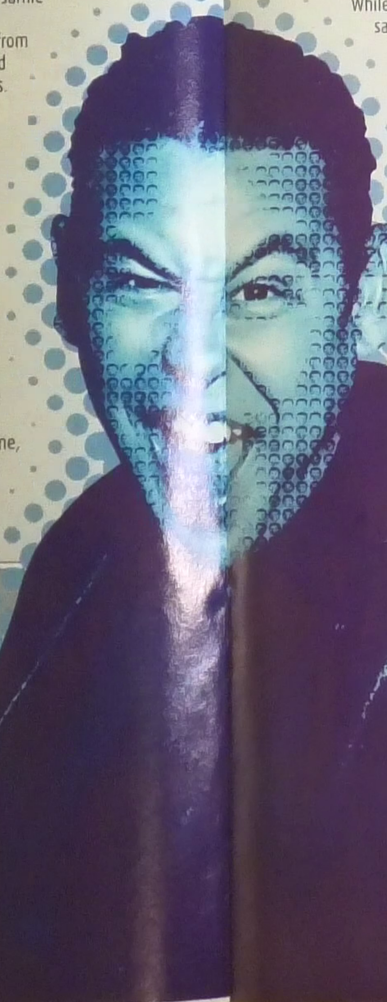
Craig's laugh is as far away as you can get from the tough-talking links about twisted metal and psycho bots that are his trademark on the Wars.

RHYME TIME

But Craig is hardly predictable. After all, this is the man who fronts two of the BBC's most popular programmes, makes regular appearances on loads of other TV and radio shows, has just completed a nationwide comedy tour, is the voice of a new computer game and soon starts shooting two feature films (one of them a big-screen version of Red Dwarf). He's even a poet. So how did he come up with his first rhyme on the show?

"My legs turned GREEN"

"It wasn't planned. I don't even think we [Craig and writer Nathan Cockerill] knew the first one was going to rhyme, it just came out that way. You don't have time to think too much about it. We wrote the last one just a few minutes ago while the fights were on."



While all the roboteers are tucking into their grub, it's safe to ask what sort of reaction Craig gets from them.

"They seem to like me. They see I'm enthusiastic, whereas they seemed to think that Jeremy [Clarkson] wasn't. I think some of them felt he was taking the mickey a bit too much. Cos I'm actually into it, I get hyped up, psyched up – I like the fighting. There are a lot more exciting robots this year, with a lot more ingenuity. It's great."

ONE IN THE EYE

What made him take the RW job in the first place?

"My son, Jack told me to do it. He was completely hooked on the first series. Who was I to argue?"

Has he ever tried controlling the robots himself?

"I did once. I put a hole in Matilda's eye. One of our house roboteers got really upset – they get very precious about them. The fight had stopped so I picked up this guy's remote and I went and bashed his robot in the eye. Hopefully I'm not banned and I'll get another go one day!"

"I put a hole in MATILDA"

"I get HYPED UP, I get PSYCHED UP"

The Craig Charles 'look' is as much a part of the show as the names of the house bots or the theme music. I ask who chooses his clothes.

"I do! For this series I wanted a different coat to the last one. The good thing is you get to keep them. These leather trousers are a bit weird, though – when it gets very hot under the lights they start turning my legs green!"

CHANGING ROOMS

Speaking of dressing up, why isn't he being served grapes by servants in his own changing room instead of hanging out with the rest of us in the canteen? The Charles chuckle makes another appearance.

"It's not like that at all. In fact, I even have to share a dressing room – with Philippa. That's one of the perks of my job!"

I jokily suggest that he and Philippa should have a bot battle.

"Hmm... that'd be a good scrap. But you'd have to make sure the robots were even. I suppose she could choose her robot and I could choose mine. Is Panic Attack around today? It's not a great-looking robot, but it doesn't half have a lot of power, and it's low to the ground..."

He wasn't joking when he said he was really into it, was he?

WIN A CRAIG CHARLES PC GAME!

Our very own Craig Charles provides the voiceover on Dogs Of War, a brand new action strategy game. Thanks to the lovely folk at Take Two Interactive, we've got 10 boxed games to give away to the lucky readers who can answer this question:

Who does Craig play in Red Dwarf?

Send your answer by 30 June 2000 ON A POSTCARD ONLY to: Craig Charles Competition, RWM, PO Box 114, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 9DG. Full competition rules on page 11.

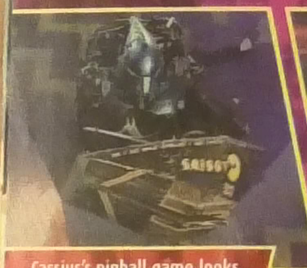
the move that changed RW forever!

PINBALL WIZARD

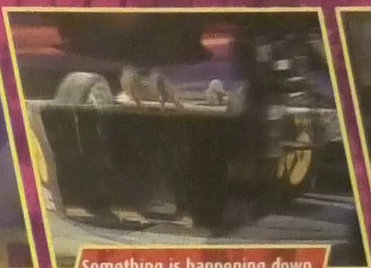
SPECS

Weight 80kg
Classification ..... Wedge
Weapons ..... CO2 powered hydraulic arm
Origin ..... Suffolk
Notes ..... Follow-up to Recyclopse in Series I
Team Captain ..... Rex Garrod
Opinion ..... Cassius is about to make RW history with its stupendous Self-Righting Mechanism (SRIMECH)

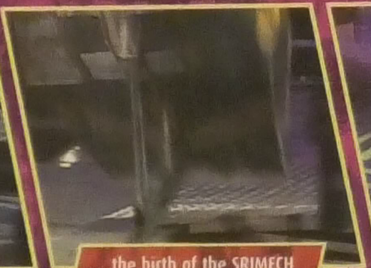
CASSIUS



Cassius's pinball game looks over, as Killalot lifts the robot with his lance and dumps Cassius on his back



Something is happening down under, as the turned-turtle robot twitches and whirrs, a light flashes, then...

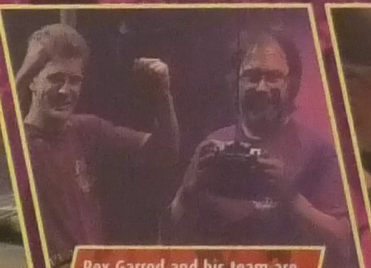


...the birth of the SRIMECH as Cassius flies up into the air, a move never seen before in the Wars!

The house robots ca only look on in admiration as Cassi goes totally airbor

"Breakdancing from Cassius!" Jonathan Pearce shouts, as Cassius goes into a 180 degree somersault

"Ahhhh, BRILLIANT, superb gymnastics, the backflip was super!" screams out an over-excited Pearce



Rex Garrod and his team are clearly pleased with the effectiveness of their bot's crafty device

Right way up again, Cassius wrecks more obstacles in a triumphant carnage spree!

THE ORIGIN OF SIR KILLALOT PART TWO

THE LOST CITY OF ATLANTIS, ROBOTS ARE ON THE RAMPAGE. THE CITY IS BEING DESTROYED.

BUDDA|BUDDA|BUDDA

THAT'S HOW YOU DEACTIVATE A ROBOT, GEEK!

LET'S HAUL THESE BABIES BACK TO THE PORTAL... HUH?

GRAA-A-A-AAA!!!

GRAA-A-A-AA

RUN!

WOOOOMPH!

WAAAGH!!!

BACK IN THE LAB...

WHAT THE...

SHUT IT DOWN! DON'T LET THAT THING GET THROUGH!!!

OOF!

"LOCKED ON TARGET. 500 METRES, NORTH NORTH-WEST, SIR."

"TRANSLATION – 'HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE!'"

BUDDA|BUDDA|BUDDA

HIT IT WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!

LOCK AND LOAD.

NO!

FIRE!

HE'S STILL COMING AT US!

YOU CAN'T STOP IT.

GENERAL, YOU SHOULD ORDER YOUR MEN TO RETREAT.

SON, YOU DON'T RETREAT WHEN YOU'VE GOT ONE OF THESE...

...RENDERING IT TEMPORARILY INACTIVE.

SKKKRRRUUUNNNNCH!!!

THE TRIP THROUGH THE COLLAPSING PORTAL STRIPS THE MONSTER OF SOME OF ITS HARDWARE...

GET THAT THING CAGED BEFORE IT KILLS THE LOT OF US

YES... "SIR"!

THE END... FOR NOW. NEXT ISSUE: THE ORIGIN OF SERGEANT BASH!

david hayles finds out how rw's brilliant mini-movies get made

LIGHTS, CAMERA, TRACTION!

In a deserted rainswept scrapyard on the outskirts of London, two of the house robots corner a silvery android against a pile of twisted metal junk. Holding up a blowtorch, the android declares "Let's finish it!" The robots move in...

It's midnight and cold enough to freeze Bash's bolts. In a top secret location (actually just off the A13 in East London!), the BBC are filming a third advert for Robot Wars, this time to promote the grand final of Series III. Directors Andy Poyiadgi and Grant Pollard are shooting a scene with Sir Killalot, Sgt Bash and actor Joe Bennett as the android. "It's meant to be a robot graveyard, where all the contestant robots are dumped," explains Andy, who has also made promos for Buffy, Farscape and Technogames. "It's inspired by classic sci-fi films like Bladerunner."

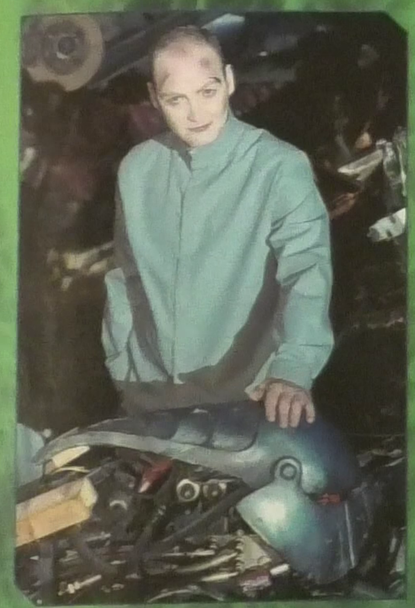
"It's certainly the weirdest acting job I've had, being chased round a junkyard by robots in the middle of the night," says Joe Bennett while the crew touch up Bash's make-up. You might recognise Joe from the previous RW promo where he played the same sinister android with a habit of waving his arms and head around at mind-bending speed. Rumour has it that the character might appear in the series itself as a robotic commentator.

"It's the **WEIRDEST** job I've ever had!"

Joe's quickly dragged back to continue filming. Chris Reynolds and his special effects crew are on hand to operate the robots – Killalot isn't working properly ("He's feeling ill," Chris explains), and has to be pushed forward with two lumps of wood. Bash, as usual, has a mind of his own, rumbling forward through the mud and metal. Joe is meant to look frightened as the robots approach, and he doesn't have to fake it. He hasn't just got Bash to worry about – behind him the special effects team have rigged up special 'fishtail burners' that release huge gas flames to make the mangled metal look like it is burning.

After the director yells "Cut!", everyone gathers round the monitor to look at the shot. The director is pleased, but there's a lot more to do. Filming will stop at four in the morning, then it's straight into the editing booth the next day, with another day to add snazzy special effects (including red eyes for the android). The ad will actually be on air less than five days after it was filmed. That's a faster turnaround than you get on Hypno-Disc's blade! "It's costing £16,000, but it's going to look like it cost a lot lot more," Andy announces. But won't it frighten the kids? "Androids with glowing eyes, robot graveyards – they *love* that sort of thing!"

"Killalot's feeling **ILL**"



BRAIN SCAN

NAME **BILL HOBBINS**

DATE OF BIRTH Aug 1970

OCCUPATION Series Producer

EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT First job was as a 'runner' on Red Dwarf!

WHAT DOES A PRODUCER DO?

My first job is to hire the right people, then make sure they are clear about what they should be doing. I am also concerned with the look of the show – everything from the location of the shoot to what Craig and Philippa wear.

When we record the battles, I sit with the Director and keep a record of results. I produce a schedule each day to let everyone know what we want to do. My job during Production is to make sure that everything happens when it should.

Editing takes ages – two weeks to rough cut a programme. By the time a show goes to air, I have already seen it at least five times!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ROBOT?

It wouldn't be fair for me to single out one robot. I like the machines that are creative. Boring wedge shapes are a thing of the past. I love to see the ways the roboteers rise to the challenge.

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU HAD TO DISQUALIFY THE AMERICANS IN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS?

The safety of my crew, the roboteers and the audience always comes first. It was a shame though, as the Mauler did look pretty vicious and they'd come a long way just to be told to turn round and go home again!

WHAT'S THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Telling roboteers that they haven't made it onto the show after all their hard work. We tell everyone who applies to be on the show that the competition is extremely fierce. For the Fourth Wars we need 128 entrants for the main competition. We've had over 800 applications so far, and they're still pouring in!

HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN A FAN OF THE SHOW?

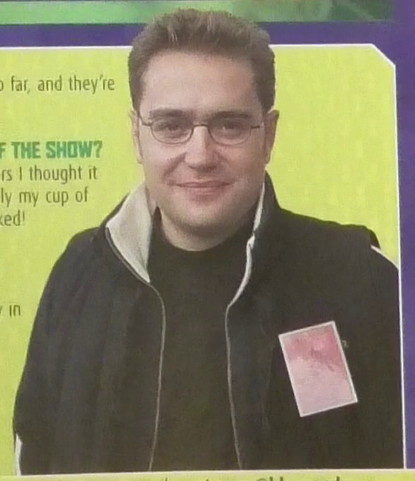
When I first heard about Robot Wars I thought it was a great idea but it wasn't really my cup of tea. Funny how you soon get hooked!

IF YOU COULD HAVE A RW WISH, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would wish for peace and harmony in the world... just so long as it never happens in the Robot Wars Arena!

WILL YOU BE WORKING ON THE NEXT SERIES?

Just you try to stop me!



NEXT MONTH: Matt Irvine, Technical Consultant. Do YOU want to ask something? Send your questions to Brain Scan, Robot Wars Magazine, Room A1130 BBC Worldwide, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT or e-mail us at **rwm@bbc.co.uk**

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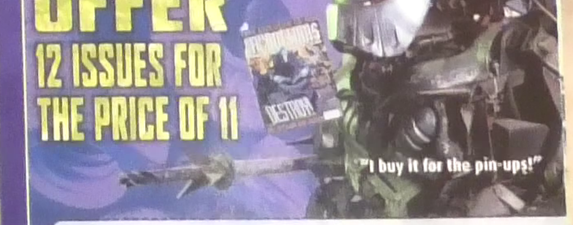

"I buy it for the pin-ups!"

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LET'S TALK WARS!

MAILSHOT

Every letter we print receives a Robot Inventor's Handbook (worth £12.99) from Design Eye Publishing. Complete with templates, nuts and bolts, you'll be beating Sir Killalot in no time at all!

>> from Malcolm Critchell
I was thinking Matilda should get married to Sir Killalot because I think they make a great couple. I could just see Sir Killalot in a lovely suit and Matilda in a wedding dress.
> You wouldn't want to be around when the other house robots fight over the bouquet, mind!

>> from Mark Middleton
I think there should be more house robots like Sir K. One of them should have a ball with spikes which it spins round.
> Nice idea, but what would it robot look like? Send in some designs for new robots, and we'll print the best.

>> from Adam Howard
Why are there five house robots and only four corners in the arena – is there some sort of rota?
> Yes. While the four house robots are fighting, the fifth is being repaired in the house robots' own pit.

>> from John Roe
I want to enter a robot but don't know how to start building one. Where can I find out?
> The best places to find out about building robots are on the official website at www.robotwars.co.uk, and by contacting the Robot Wars Club (see page 12).

NUT OF THE MONTH

>> from Thomas Toone
Tremble in your boots, mortal creators, as the beginning is almost upon us. My robot is soon to reach the arena. Codenamed 'The Roswell Project' the robot is capable of anti-gravity and uses far superior weaponry to any other available on the planet. Release date 20/01/01, so be prepared to experience the wrath of The Roswell Project. HA HA – PREPARE FOR WAR!
> Ooo, we're scared! When you say it is capable of anti-gravity, do you mean it's just a balloon?

THE PIT PARADE

TALKING POINT

Debate has been raging at WWW.ROBOTWARS.CO.UK about how robots get out of the dreaded pit. Theories range from the silly to the downright stoopid...

>> By MARK C The robots fall on top of an air bag and then the bag is inflated to push it out.

>> By CLARKSON Sir K would need help from every robot and still struggle to get out! Ain't he a fat puddin'?

>> By JON Probably a winch. Or lots of horses.

>> By MYTHOS They strap rockets to the robot.

Big, ugly robot?

Everyone went on about how good Twn Twrn looked in Series III, but we reckon it wasn't that special. Order a pizza with all the toppings to see what we mean!

SYSTEM CHECK

Read the mag?Now you can answer these teasers, then [answers below]!

01 Name 3 of the robots that went to Brighton.
02 What sort of sandwich was Craig eating?
03 Where was the RW ad filmed?
04 Who'were the house robots chasing in the ad?
05 Where does George Francis do most of the practising for Chaos 2?

THE BIG BALLOT

We ask the questions and YOU give the answers. This month, WHICH PART OF THE ARENA IS THE MOST DANGEROUS? Not surprisingly, the pit is to be avoided at all costs, but it looks like the grinders and flames are just for show!

PIT 45%	SPIKES 18%	FLAME GRILL 7%	CPZ 27%	GRINDERS 3%

NEXT MONTH Which team is funniest? E-mail or post your answer to the address at the top of the page

HUGH MANOID

THE MAN WHO LOVES TO HATE ROBOT WARS

What a holiday disaster! I booked a nice quiet week trainspotting in Belgium. Everything was going well until I mentioned Robot Wars to some Belgian spotters. "Oh, ze show with ze metal monsters, we love it because Belgian TV is boring," said my so-called chums.

Of course I left straight away and went to Germany to meet Hans Upp, my pen pal. He couldn't stop talking about it either! "Ach, ve vill have our own show soon and it vill be better zan your puny British bots!" said red-faced Hans.

Drastic measures were needed so I got the next flight to Australia, where surely I would be safe. No such luck. They've got their own version as well and it's just as terrible as the UK show. In the end I had to come back home and spent the rest of my holiday writing to the United Nations to get Robot Wars banned all over the world!

ROBOLIKE

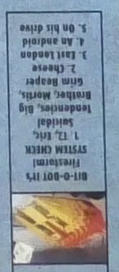
4 seasons with olives?

< BIT-O-BOT

Which bit of which hot bot is this? If you can't figure it out, burn to the bottom of the page for the answer!

"We all know Clint Eastwood was the king of fast draws, but we're good, bad and ugly on Robot Wars!"

ANSWERS



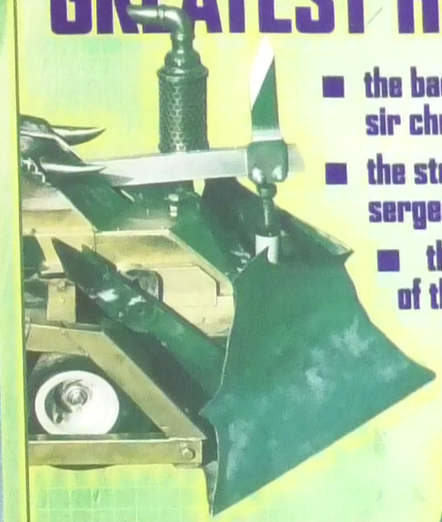
BIT-O-BOT IT'S Firetorm! SYSTEM CHECK 1. TZ, Eric, Sawtooth, Big Tentacles, Big Brother, Mortis, Grim Reaper 2. Cheese 3. East London 4. An android 5. On his drive

NEXT MONTH

whack! thwack! smack! crack!

SHUNT'S GREATEST HITS!

- the bad boys of sir chromalot
- the story of sergeant bash
- the invasion of the battling ants!



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HUBBLE, BUBBLE,
THE WITCH IS IN TROUBLE!

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